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state of Nebraska. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the opening on the motion to reconsider. Open for discussion on that motion. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I want to continue our discussion on this. And I think that Senator Beutler is working on a compromise with Senator Cunningham. And hopefully we can work something out. But actually, what I want to discuss for just a second is, I had given some numbers on the floor yesterday about contribution rates from our employer contribution rates. And a couple members indicated that I had my numbers wrong. And I don't...I think this is kind of a confusing area, as to what the tax rate is. And anyway, if I said it wrong, I apologize, but I'm not sure that I did, and so maybe Senator Baker can correct me. But if you...I've got some information from our Department of Labor that talks about the average tax rate on total wages. And in 2002, it was .38. Yesterday when I...I had used a .2 number, or a .02 number, and that, as I understand, was the year before. That was 2001. So the average tax rate on total wages in 2001 was .02, or .2. The 2002 estimate was .38. And that means, for a \$1 million payroll, the average tax rate on that total payroll would be .38 percent. So if my math is right, that's \$3,800. But again, I could be wrong. And I'm sure Senator Baker will correct me if I am wrong. The...again, the average tax rate on the total wages was .38 percent in 2002. That was an estimate. The actual number in 2002 was...in reality it was .26 percent of the total wages paid. Now, because the trust, I guess, is underfunded, and I think the underfunding might be due to a reduced rate that we did a number of years ago for employers, the 2003 estimate is .35 percent of total wages. So by no means does that mean that's it. That's an average, and that's the number that I used yesterday. And I stand by those numbers. I think they're accurate. Now, are there employers with higher utilization that perhaps pay a greater rate? Of course. That's what an average means. The average rate that all employers will pay is, again, in 2002, it was .26 percent on total wages, and .35 percent is the estimate for 2003. Bottom line is, in 2003, the numbers provided by our Department of Labor, and